

**Amendments to the Specification:**

---

**ABSTRACT**

~~The present invention relates to flexible~~ Flexible couplings are provided comprising a male member disposed within a female member in a spaced apart configuration, with the space being filled, at least partially, with an elastically deformable material. The male and female members comprise features that prevent separation from one another after the elastically deformable material is provided in the space between them. For example, the male and female members of one embodiment each comprise a threaded region, with the respective male and female threads being intermeshed but generally spaced apart from each other. At least one of the male and female threads is tapered in two opposing directions with respect to a coupling centerline. The double taper requires the elastically deformable material to be displaced for the male and female members to become separated. However, the elastically deformable materials are constrained by surfaces of the male and female members, and therefore, cannot be displaced.

---